Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05

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PASS AGRICULTURE

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJ: PROPOSED EC NFDM MIXING REGULATIONS AND GRAIN PRICE

REF: (A) STATE 48239; (B) STATE 48241

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIONS BASIS REFTELS WERE MADE TO MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND BOTH ISSUES WERE AGAIN RAISED WITH MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL THIS WEEK AS WELL. DANES ARE ALSO OPPOSED TO NFDM MIXING PROPOSALS AND ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GRAIN PRICE PROPOSALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT MAY WELL ACQUIESCE TO BOTH IN COMPROMISE TO ACHIEVE

REDUCTION OF MONETARY COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS WHICH ARE HURTING DANISH EXPORTS TO OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

- 2. US VIEWS ON PROPOSED EC PRICE INCREASES FOR GRAINS ALONG WITH REITERATION OF FIRM US OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED NFDM MIXING REGULATIONS WERE DISCUSSED WITH DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY FOR EC AFFAIRS OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (AMBASSADOR WANDEL-PETERSEN), WHO CONFIRMED DANISH OPPOSITION TO BOTH PROPOSALS. HE AS WELL AS AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS SEEMED PLEASED TO HAVE US POSITION ON THESE PROPOSALS CLARIFIED. THE DANES TOO HAD BEEN HEARING ALLEGATIONS THAT THE US WOULD NOT STRONGLY PURSUE ITS OPPOSITION TO THE MIXING REGULATIONS IN VIEW OF THE MODIFICATION TO REQUIRE SIMULTANEOUS STORAGE OF PROTEIN MEAL. ALTHOUGH DANISH OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED SHARP INCREASE IN GRAIN PRICES AND PROTECTION APPEARS TO BE LESS FIRM, THE DANES SEE THESE AND THE MIXING SCHEME AS HAVING ADVERSE IMPACTS ON COSTS OF PRODUCTION IN THEIR VITAL PORK INDUSTRY.
- 3. VIRTUALLY ALL SECTORS OF DANISH AGRICULTURE EXCEPT THE DAIRY INDUSTRY HAVE GONE ON PUBLIC RECORD IN OPPOSITION OF NFDM MIXING PROPOSAL. PRIVATELY EVEN DAIRY BOARD SPOKESMEN AGREE THAT THE MIXING SCHEME IS AN AWKWARD PROPOSAL THAT WOULD DO LITTLE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM OF EXCESS PRODUCTION. THE DANISH POSITION GOING INTO THE CURRENT PRICE NEGOTIATIONS FAVORED A PLAN TO REQUIRE DAIRY PRODUCERS TO TAKE BACK TO THE FARM FOR FEEDING OR SALE AT FEED VALUE AN NFDM PORTION (E.G. 10 PERCENT) OF THE MILK EC FARMERS DELIVER TO DAIRY PLANTS. AS AN ALTERNATIVE THE DANES WERE PREPARED TO SUPPORT A PROPOSAL TO LEVY A FEE ON ALL EC MILK PRODUCTION AS A MEANS OF FUNDING LIQUIDATION OF NFDM STOCKS AT FEED VALUES AND PROMOTION OF MILK CONSUMPTION.
- 4. NEVERTHELESS, DESPITE OPPOSITION TO MIXING REGULATIONS AND SHARP INCREASE IN GRAIN PRICES AND PROTECTION PER SE, DENMARK'S OVERIDING CONCERN IS TO OBTAIN FROM THE PRICE NEGOTIATIONS A SOLID COMMITMENT TO REDUCE THE MONETARY COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS. DENMARK HAS LONG BEEN SEEKING ELIMINATION OR A FIRM SCHEDULE FOR ELIMINATION (E.G. SIX MONTHS) OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS PAID TO OFFSET CURRENCY REVALUATIONS BY MBMER COUNTRIES. THE AMOUNTS APPLICABLE TO GERMAN TRADE HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY DAMAGING TO DANISH TRADE, WITH DANISH EXPORTS TO GERMANY DISADVANTAGED BY THE AMOUNTS LEVIED AGAINST THEM AND DANISH EXPORTS TO OTHER MEMBERS HURT BY THE AMOUNTS PAID TO GERMAN EXPORTS. THE DANES CLAIM THAT IT IS BECAUSE OF THESE PAYMENTS THAT GERMAN BUTTER EXPORTS TO THE UK LAST YEAR SURPASSED DENMARK'S. IN ORDER

TO GET RELIEF ON THE COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS, THE DANES ARE PREPARED TO COMPROMISE THEIR OBJECTIONS TO PROPOSED MIXING REGULATION AND GRAIN PRICE INCREASES. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL THEY ARE ALSO WILLING TO ACCEPT HIGHER AVERAGE CAP PRICE INCREASES THAN THEY WOULD PREFER.

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GRAINS

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